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Seat Pleasant News

"A Smart City of Excellence"

2017 D.C. Smart Cities Week



The City of Seat Pleasant attended the Smart Cities Week at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in DC, October 3, 2017 through October 5, 2017. The purpose of this conference was to focus on the next generation of smart cities, by bringing together city leaders, and technology innovators to envision the city of tomorrow. This conference also served as a platform to discuss how cities are leading the way for next-generation transportation, artificial intelligence and analytics, digital payments and citizen services, compassionate cities and other topics. The City of Seat Pleasant was joined by strategic partner, International Business Machine (IBM), displaying the IOC capabilities to visitors that entered the *"Smart City of Excellence"* exhibit room.

CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT

MAYOR

Eugene W. Grant

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ward III

Reverl L. Yeargin

WARD I COUNCILMEMBER

Lamar Maxwell

WARD II COUNCILMEMBER

Hope Love

WARD IV COUNCILMEMBER

Charl Jones

WARD V COUNCILMEMBER

Gloria Sistrunk

AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER

Shireka McCarthy

AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER

Kelly Porter

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Jeannelle Wallace

TREASURER

Robert L. Ashton

CHIEF OF POLICE

Devan Martin

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Samuel Prue

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Weyimi Ayu

CITY CLERK

Dashaun N. Lanham

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Sharron Lipford



Light Up Your Holiday Christmas Light Contest

December 23, 2017 @ 7pm

First prize \$100

Second Prize \$50



**Must complete the contest form and return to City Hall
by**

December 16, 2017 before 5pm.

Please visit www.seatpleasantmd.gov for contest rules and form.

GRANTS SPOTLIGHT

The Grants Management Division received grant for police body cameras for \$5,000 and a grant for training for a police recruit for \$5,000. Both grants were awarded by the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT). The Division also submitted two grants to the Prince George's County Community Development Block Grant Program (PG-CDBG). One grant is for street repair within the City and one for acquisition of real estate parcels toward the City's economic development plans.

MINORITY BUSINESS DAY



The Mayor thanks everyone who attended the City's first ever Minority Business Day. The event had over 80 businesses register to attend with over 50% participation that day. Per the post event survey sent to participants, 81% reported that it was an excellent event.

This month's Business Spotlight goes to a Seat Pleasant business that attended The Minority Business Day. Ms. Anne Alston, a Seat Pleasant resident, is the Founder and CEO of ALSTNTEC, a minority, woman-owned business that has more than 25 years of experience in Career Transition, Professional Development, Mentoring, and Empowerment services to the community and businesses. She is the first to report after the event that she submitted her Minority Certification application within two weeks! Congratulations Ms. Alston.

City of Seat Pleasant Office of Economic Development

The Office of Economic Development maintains the Seat Pleasant Revolving Loan Fund Program which is the first of its kind among inner beltway communities, neighborhoods, and towns. The purpose of the fund is to stimulate the redevelopment of the City through economic development strategies.

The funding is available to existing and start-up companies based in the City of Seat Pleasant to promote City-grown entrepreneurship. The program will provide access to capital for small, minority, and women-owned businesses.

To be eligible to apply for the Revolving Loan Fund, you must be a resident of the City of Seat Pleasant and a business owner, or owner of a business that is located within the City. Those who are interested may contact the Economic Development Department to obtain an application.

For additional information on the Fund and how you can participate, contact Sean M. Wilson at 301-336-2600, or sean.wilson@seatpleasantmd.gov

VACANT HOUSES & PROPERTIES

ATTENTION RESIDENTS

The Economic Development Department is in the process of addressing vacant houses and properties in Seat Pleasant.

If anyone has any information about a vacant house or property on their street, or in the neighborhood. Please contact City Hall and ask for Sean Wilson of Economic Development. He can be reached by phone at 301-336-2600, or sean.wilson@seatpleasantmd.gov



THE SEAT PLEASANT HOUSING TRUST FUND

CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

FUTURE “*SMART*” HOME

A SMART HOME FOR *‘A Smart City of Excellence’*

COMING SOON

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION OF SEAT PLEASANT HOMES.
WWW.SEATPLEASANTMD.GOV

Mayor
EUGENE W. GRANT



Recognition of a Moment In History

Seat Pleasant's very own staff member, Mr. Lewis Oliver, Public Works Foreman, has been employed with the Public Works Department for 30yrs. Mr. Oliver is originally from Charlestown, South Carolina. His mother and family owned a small café in the town where he resided. Mr. Oliver served as a participant on the case of Briggs v. Elliott, later to become known as the Brown v. Board of Education at Topeka. After being apart of that case, Mr. Oliver later became a County Councilman in the Town of Summerton, South Carolina. He served for 10 years as a County Councilman on a five member board. He became an instrumental player to end the Chain Gang in South Carolina.

Mr. Oliver is widely loved by residents throughout the City. The City is grateful to have Mr. Oliver as a part of our staff for the numerous years of dedicated & loyal service.



The 7th Councilmanic District Constituent Fund Committee (CDCFC) is hosting its annual Thanksgiving dinner for senior citizens living in the 7th District of Prince George's County on **Sunday, November 19, 2-5PM** at St. Margaret's Catholic Church 408 Addison Rd, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743. The event, co-hosted by the Kappa Alpha Si Fraternity, Inc. (Hyattsville/Landover Alumni Chapter), is a neighborhood staple that many depend on to receive a hot, home-cooked Thanksgiving meal.

Although admission continues to be free, this year the Committee is requiring that dinner attendees have a ticket for entry. Tickets will be available at the Suitland Community Center, located at 5600 Regency Lane in Forestville, MD, between 1 and 4pm on the following dates: **October 5, 12 & 19; November 2 and 16**. The CDCFC welcomes a donation of a new, unwrapped toy or scarf/hat/glove set for children in need this holiday season. For more information about this event, contact CDCFC President, Barbara Murdock at (301) 669-6611 or (301) 787-1144.

Fall is Here!

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO
WITH YOUR LEAVES AND YARD
WASTE?**

**COLLECTION IS
EVERY WEDNESDAY**

Plastic bags are **NO LONGER** accepted for collection.

Residents are encouraged to use reusable trash cans clearly labeled "Yard Waste" or large yard waste PAPER bags. Place the cans or paper bags at the curbside

TUESDAY NIGHT





Cleaning Up The Chesapeake Trail

DID YOU KNOW...

That EVERYTHING that goes onto the ground can eventually ends up in our drinking water?

The City of Seat Pleasant was recently awarded a \$2,000 grant to help clean up the Chesapeake Trail of trash and debris, as well as animal and human waste. Keeping the trail clean will also help to ensure that the Chesapeake Bay is safe for the area wildlife and fish and ultimately our drinking water.

People often believe that animal manure is harmless, but in truth it can be quite hazardous. Factory livestock facilities pollute the air and release over 400 separate gasses, mostly due to the large amounts of manure they produce. The principal gases released are hydrogen sulfide methane, ammonia, and carbon dioxide. Gasses can be dangerous air pollutants that threaten both the environment and human health. Nitric oxides are also released in large quantities from farms through manure application, and are among the leading causes of acid rain.

Among the many nutrients usually present in high concentrations in animal waste are phosphorous and nitrogen, which are beneficial to the soils when the manure is added in small concentrations.

Bacteria and nitrates are contaminants that are found in human and animal wastes. Children and some adults are at extra risk when exposed to water-born bacteria. These include the elderly and people whose immune systems are weak due to AIDS or treatments for cancer.

Animal waste also is a food source for vermin and other rodents.

So, how can you help?

Make sure that when you walk your dog that you use a pooper scooper and properly dispose of the waste.

Recycle all plastic water bottles, aluminum can, uncontaminated cardboard, newspaper, and magazines;

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) recommends that you “can the grease”. You can contact them at <https://wsscwater/canthe grease.com> for additional details, but one should never pour cooking oil down the drain or toilet as it goes directly in the sewer which means clogs for you, potential backups into your basement and sewage overflows in the WSSC system. Proper disposal includes pouring the grease in a can, refrigerate it so it cools, and then throw it in the trash.

Changing your vehicle oil in the driveway, or in the street should only be done with containers that are approved for collecting the used oil which can be taken to local hazardous waste facilities. Cleaning solvents, paint thinners, soaps and, detergents can harm drinking water, thus proper disposal is also crucial.

Use street trash receptacles as opposed to throwing trash on the ground or at storm drain locations.

These are just a few of the steps that can be taken to ensure that our drinking water remains clean and safe.



Smart Cities Week 2017: 3 Tips to Help Small Cities make Connected Tech Possible

Mayor Eugene W. Grant is quoted in a section of the article titled , “Make Sure Citizens Are Along for the ride”.

Alongside breaking down silos in government operations, making sure that citizens are able to effectively participate in and take advantage of smart city offerings is essential to continued success.

“In Seat Pleasant ... we are going to provide internet access for the entire population,” said Eugene Grant, mayor of the town of **fewer than 5,000 residents**. Seat Pleasant has **partnered** with companies like **IBM** with the aim of becoming a future tech hub in order to drive opportunity and economic development.

“But if we’re talking about equity, **we have to talk about the full spectrum of equity**. It’s not just about connectivity, but it’s also about the adoption of it,” said Grant. “So, how do we educate our residents to understand what it means to have access to it? There’s more to it than surfing on the internet for entertainment purposes ... **there are true value adds there to having the connectivity.**”

To help bridge the gap, the town’s Public Engagement Office will offer classes and training that will help residents understand how to make the best use of the technology at hand.

Moreover, the town is also working to ensure that residents have the skills necessary to take advantage of the job opportunities that come along with new technology.

“**We have created a partnership with Prince George’s Community College** to work out the workforce aspect of [smart city technologies]. We have all these new technologies coming in, so we need to train our residents to participate,” Grant said.

Important Benefits Available to Veterans

By Robert L. Ashton City Treasurer

PURPOSE

The purpose of this article is to share with residents in the City of Seat Pleasant the potential benefits available to Veterans in the areas listed below.

[Property Tax Exemption](#)

[Military Retired Pay Income Tax Exemption](#)

[Vessel Excise Tax](#)

[Vehicle Registration](#)


[NOTE: This article also contains internal links to help you explore these benefits further. Please visit www.seatpleasantmd.gov for full access to the articles.

Property Tax Exemption:

A property tax exemption is available to the following individuals, for their primary residence located in the State of Maryland:

- veterans who are 100 percent disabled for service-connected causes. The exemption passes to the veteran's spouse upon his or her death.
 - surviving spouse of active duty military personnel who died in the line of duty
 - surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran
- a spouse who receives the dependency and indemnity compensation

Use the links below to download the appropriate form, or contact your county's tax assessor's office or 1-888-246-5941.

[Property Tax Exemption - 100% disabled Veteran](#) 

[Property Tax Exemption - Surviving Spouse of 100% Disabled Veteran](#) 

[Property Tax Exemption - Surviving Spouse of Active Duty Military Personnel Killed in the Line of Duty](#) 

Military Retired Pay Income Tax Exemption

Military retirees are exempt from Maryland income tax on the first \$5000 of their retirement income. In addition, military retirees who are over the age of 65, totally disabled, or who have a spouse who is totally disabled, receive an additional subtraction. For more information call 1-800-MD-TAXES.

Vessel Excise Tax

Active duty military personnel are exempt from the 5% vessel excise tax levied on the sale, resale or transfer of a vessel. The exemption is for not more than one year to current owners of vessels who are members of the armed services and who are serving on active duty. For more information go to the [MD Department of Natural Resources](#) web site.

Vehicle Registration - Tax Credit

Active duty military members establishing residency in Maryland are eligible for a tax credit for any titling tax paid in another state when titling and registering a vehicle within one year of moving to Maryland. For more information, go to the [MD Department of Motor Vehicles](#) web site.

The City of Seat Pleasant
"A Smart City of Excellence"

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Seat Pleasant,
Maryland, 20743

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**We're on the
Web!!**

www.SeatPleasantMD.gov

